

English Translation of the Friday Sermon of 7th January 2000 Delivered by Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad - Khalifatul Masih IV

Say to My votaries who believe that they observe Prayer and spend out of what We have provided for them secretly and openly before there comes a day wherein there will be neither bargaining nor any friendship.

The Holy Quran. Ibrahim [Abraham]: 32.

I have selected this verse for two reasons. First, I have to announce the beginning of the New Year for *Waqfe Jadid* and in this the believers are admonished to spend in the way of Allah. Secondly, people are directed in this verse to continue to observe Prayer regularly, the best lesson which the blessed *Ramadan*, now coming to a close, teaches us.

Today is the last day and last Friday of *Ramadan*. Mosques are full of worshipers today as people think that if they can come to Mosque on this last Friday it would be sufficient to earn their forgiveness from Allah. No doubt Allah forgives whomever He pleases but they are mistaken. I have studied all the relevant *Ahadith* and have not found any mention of any special blessings of the last Friday of *Ramadan*. *Lailatul Qadr* (the Night of Destiny) is mentioned very often in the *Ahadith*. It appears that the idea of 'Last Friday' was introduced among the Muslims at a much later time.

It must be remembered, the 'Last Friday' is not to say goodbye to but to resolve to continue the good things one has learnt during this blessed month. One should continue practicing piety and to be prepared to welcome the next *Ramadan*. I pray that our Jamaat will remember to observe the daily Prayers and *Tahajjad* consistently with punctuality, the best lesson to be learnt and remembered from this sacred month.

Imam Sahib has prepared a list of highly significant events, with some deep wisdom behind them, which happened during the past year. Muhammad Sadiq Sahib has also added some points to the list:

1. The first and the last and the middle day of the year in 1999 were a Friday.
2. The blessed month of *Ramadan* had Friday in the beginning and middle and at the end; there were five Fridays in this *Ramadan*, with two Fridays during the last ten days.
3. "Friday the tenth" occurred twice during the year, September the tenth and December the tenth. My health was pleasantly affected by God Almighty towards full recovery.
4. The greatest sign in favour of Islam was shown (first time in the history of religions) with special blessings and mercy of Allah, I0820226 joined Ahmadiyyat this year, *Alhamdolillah*.

5. 21000 people attended Jalsa Salana Qadian (the permanent Centre of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam) including 16000 new converts.
6. Muslim Television Ahmadiyya International adopted the digital system for transmission of its programs throughout the world.
7. I lead the *Kasoof* (eclipse) Prayer on August the eleventh (on which there was a Solar Eclipse), the full moon of the fourteenth of Ramadan was especially large and bright, a phenomenon repeated every 133 years.

Some Ahadith of the Holy Prophet ﷺ direct all believers to offer prayers in congregation and participate in financial sacrifice for Islam for the sake of Allah's pleasure:

Abu Umama Bahaly narrated that he heard the Holy Prophet ﷺ at his last pilgrimage say 'Fear Allah, observe five Prayers, observe the month of fasting, pay the Prescribed Alms and obey what you are commanded, you will enter paradise if you do all that.'¹

I am fulfilling my responsibility to convey to you the direction of the Holy Prophet ﷺ regarding five obligatory Prayers. One should also know that the Holy Prophet ﷺ was very regular in offering the *Tahajjad* Prayer. Also, spending in the way of Allah never decreases your wealth, you are rather saved from many unnecessary expenses by His mercy. The habit of begging from others diminishes your respect:

Hazrat Saad bin Abi Waqas narrated that the Holy Prophet ﷺ said 'You shall be rewarded for spending in order to earn the pleasure of Allah even if it were a morsel which you put in your wife's mouth.'²

'A person is rewarded 700 or more times for spending in the cause of Allah'.³

After Ahadith, I also refer to the writings of the Promised Messiah (peace be on him): *Financial sacrifice for the sake of Allah facilitates the passage of life with ease, improves good conduct and morals and enables one to partake in noble causes of goodness.*

After brief introductory comments, I announce the beginning of the forty-third Year of *Waqf e Jadid*. Hazrat Musleh Maud (may Allah be pleased with him) told me that he had entered my name at the top of the list when he initiated this scheme in 1957. Now I understand the deep wisdom behind that because of my role in *Waqf e Jadid*. I travelled far and wide, more than any inspector, and corrected many shortcomings of people after learning about them. It is Allah's blessing that I have been associated with this scheme from early childhood. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III, (may the mercy of Allah be upon him), included children in this scheme in 1966 to motivate them to offer financial sacrifice from childhood. I announced on December 25th 1985 that this scheme be extended to the entire world. *Alhamdolillah* it is now established in one hundred countries. This too is one of the special blessings of Allah bestowed upon us this past year.

¹ Abu Isa Muhammad ibn Isa at-Tirmidhi. *Jami at-Tirmidhi*.

² Muhammad ibn Ismail al-Bukhari. *Sahih al-Bukhari*.

³ *Tirmidhi*.

According to up to date reports, *Waqf e Jadid*'s contributions amount to 1074500 British Pounds Sterling, which is £ 41500 Pounds more than the previous year's collection. 24538 new members, (most of them were new converts) joined the scheme during the year. With Allah's grace, America has kept its first position in financial sacrifice, followed by Pakistan and Germany with second and third position. The following are the top ten rankings in the world: United States of America, Pakistan, Germany, United Kingdom, Canada, India, Switzerland, Indonesia, Japan and Belgium.

The following countries have also made special efforts in financial sacrifice for this scheme: Norway, Burma, Holland, France, Mauritius and Bosnia.

The following seventeen countries joined the scheme for the first time: Madagascar, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Guinea Conakry, Mali, Malawi, Burundi, Morocco, Tunisia, Austria, Greece, Bhutan, Albania, Macedonia and Ethiopia.

For highest collection in Pakistan, Rabwah gained the first position. Rabwah had also the top ranking in *Waqf e Jadid* (The Children's Chapter). Other Jamaats with outstanding performance were as follows: Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Sialkot, Faisalabad, Sheikhupura, Gujranwala, Umardot, Bahawalnagar, Gujrat, Sargodha and Narowal.